

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DHA-02 CU-02 /063 W
-----126160 201017Z /21
R 200808Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1984

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, CSCE, CZ

SUBJECT: CHARTER 77: TRIAL OF FOUR DISSIDENTS EXPECTED

REF: PRAGUE 1377

1. FRG DIPLOMAT WHO RECENTLY TALKED WITH PAVEL KOHOUT AT HIS COUNTRY HOUSE QUOTES KOHOUT AS SAYING TRIAL OF OTTO ORNEST, JIRI LEDERER, VACLAV HAVEL AND FRANTISEK PAVLICEK IS SOON TO TAKE PLACE IN PRAGUE AMIDST AS LITTLE PUBLICITY AS REGIME CAN ENGINEER DURING SUMMER EXODUS.

2. ACCORDING TO OUR GERMAN COLLEAGUE, KOHOUT IS NO LONGER BEING HOUNDED CONSTANTLY BY POLICE AND IS ABLE TO RECEIVE WHOMEVER HE WANTS. HOWEVER, SWISS DCM, WHO MAINTAINS CLOSE TIES WITH KOHOUT, INDICATES KOHOUT REMAINS UNDER SURVEILLANCE. KOHOUT SAID THAT HAVEL AND PAVLICEK WERE EXPECTED TO GET OFF WITH RELATIVELY LIGHT SENTENCES, BUT THAT ORNEST, WHO HAS LONG BEEN IN CONTACT WITH EXILE PUBLICATION SVEDECTVI, WAS LURED INTO CONFESSING MORE THAN HE SHOULD HAVE BY VAGUE PROMISES OF LENIENCY IF HE WOULD "COME CLEAN," AND THAT HE, TOGETHER WITH LEDERER, WOULD HAVE THE BOOK THROWN AT HIM.

3. KOHOUT SAID POLICE HAD TOLD HIM THAT CHARTER 77 WAS
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A "DEAD ISSUE" BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT NOW KNOWS "EVERYTHING" ABOUT THEM. WHILE KOHOUT DID NOT AGREE WITH THIS ASSESSMENT, NEITHER WAS HE SAYING WHAT FUTURE ACTIVITIES CHARTER 77 MOVEMENT MIGHT BE PLANNING.
FROWICK

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
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Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, SHUM, CZ, CSCE, (ORNEST, OTTO), (LEDERER, JIRI), (HAVEL, VACLAV), (PAVLICEK, FRANTISEK)
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